

Welcome

5th Week in Lent

March 24, 2021

3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Led by Pastor Heidi Punt



UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused



Our Mission: *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

Our Vision: *One Relationship at a Time*

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)

9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

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A charter congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

Week 5: Pilate's Judgment Hall

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"
They all said, "Let him be crucified!" Matthew 27:22*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of his love.

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C We walk with Jesus to Pilate's judgment hall.

P To hear about Jewish leaders, a prisoner named Barabbas and even Pilate's wife.

C It all boils down to three words—innocent, guilty and free.

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C I shall follow where you guide!

The organ silently introduces and leads the Congregation of the Hymn 487 Let us ever walk with Jesus

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.**

**Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Forgiving Father, though I don't like to admit it, I am a sinner, much like Barabbas—

C A rebel and a wretch.

P Born dead in transgressions and sins.

C Lost and without hope.

P Doomed to perish.

C Blinded by the god of this age.

P My finest deeds are still soiled with sin.

C And all my righteous acts are like unclean rags.

P I am Barabbas.

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C I shall follow where you guide!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Lord God, heavenly Father, you set Israel free from the chains of Egyptian bondage and you set Barabbas free from Roman execution; so set us free from every prison that shackles and binds us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 14:22-29

And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging[a] their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a

resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-23

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

SERMON

Pastor Heidi Punt

HYMN: *My Song is Love Unknown*

**My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**

**He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend.**

**Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.**

**They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
That he his foes from thence might free.**

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received. All loose offering will go towards the Franz Merrell Community Crisis Fund.

NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen**

HYMN: *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?*

**Alas, and did my Savior bleed? And did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?**

**Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown! And love beyond degree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide, And shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died for his own creatures' sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.**

SENDING

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to Pilate's judgment hall, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C **Let us ever walk with Jesus!**

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Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) Setting 1I (page 77-97)

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PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28

9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

As Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday we are drawn into the dramatic turn of events of the last days of Jesus' life. On Sunday he is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of joy and roaring "hosannas." By the end of the week he will be betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by Passover pilgrims and his closest friends. Things turn quickly from a parade to a death sentence which is carried out on a cross between two thieves.

Journey with us through Holy Week at Union Lutheran Church. We will begin with having palms available to place at the cross outside on Palm Sunday.



2021 CHURCH YEARBOOKS

Our 2021 Church Yearbooks are available in the Narthex. Please check off your name and pick up a yearbook.

Please bear in mind that this is a working directory and not an official roll of the congregation. We hope it is correct, but would be glad to know of any errors you may find so that we may make corrections. The only way we may know of any change in your address is that you or a member of your family keep us informed. Please do us this favor.

*A **CALLED MEETING** of the **CONGREGATION** will be held following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on **Sunday, March 28**. The purpose of the meeting will be reviewing and approving the 2021 Yearbook.*



MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

Maundy Thursday recalls Jesus' last supper with his disciples where he institutes what the church knows as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As a sign of his servant-love, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and gave them a new commandment, that they should love one another as he has loved them. We see ourselves in the disciples, who will abandon their Lord in various ways as Jesus makes his way to the cross.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This year beginning on Monday afternoon, March 29, we will have the opportunity to drive to each Station of the Cross for meditation and prayer. Every station resembles the journey Christ took from Gethesemane to Golgatha. This can be a moving experience for individuals and families. Please plan to prayerfully participate in this very personal walk with Jesus. A booklet will be available before the first station to guide you.



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2
3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

This holy day recalls the last hours of Jesus' life as the suffering servant is nailed to the cross, fulfilling his mission as the sacrificial Lamb of God. The sinless One takes on humanity's sin as he is betrayed by his closest companions, arrested and sentenced to a shameful death, even as Pontius Pilate finds no fault in him. We see ourselves in the angry crowd and lament our own denial of our Lord.



Following the evening Good Friday service, we will have a **PRAYER VIGIL**. A prayer vigil is a watchful, awake time set apart for the purpose of prayer. As an act of public witness, it offers the community a space to connect with God so that God's vision for love and justice can be carried out through us.

Union understands prayer vigils to be grounded in the power of the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts and minds and to strengthen us in our work and witness.

If you would like to participate please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

*Also, on Good Friday, our youth will have a **Lock-in** at 7:30 p.m. We invite the Congregation to sponsor a youth member (funds will go towards Youth Retreats/Trips).*

If you would like to participate by sponsoring the youth or can assist with the Lock-in, please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex or contact Pastor Heidi. Thank you!

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

(during the Sunday School hour)

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion)

The resurrection of our Lord ushers in a new reality for those who believe: a new life in Christ. God, who shows no partiality, offers salvation and forgiveness to all who believe. Our confession of faith in the resurrection of Christ is a commitment to a deeper walk with God: one characterized by worship, prayer, and an intentional living out of Jesus' kingdom principles. This Good News is something we have no choice but to respond to.

*The **Worship & Music Committee** invites you to help us bring spring in the Sanctuary this **Easter Sunday, April 4**. As we make our way through Lent to the glory of Easter morning we look forward to **members bringing in their own beautiful spring potted flowers**. Examples are tulips, hydrangeas, geraniums, peace lily, gerbera daises, etc.*

Also, on Easter we invite you to come and bring your floral offering to decorate the cross. (Pick something from your yard...a branch, a flower – it's done to the glory of God.)

